

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15432 010153Z

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SUBJ: NOVOSTI COMMENTATOR GIVES INSIDE VIEW ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO
MOSCOW AUDIENCE

1. SUMMARY. NOVOSTI COMMENTATOR AT ZNANIYE SOCIETY PRESENTA-
TION SEPT 24 DESCRIBES SOVIET SUPPORT FOR DETENTE WITH
PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO U.S. PRESIDENTIAL RACE, EXPLAINS
TO DOUBTFUL AUDIENCE SOVIET POSITION ON CRUSE MISSILE DE-
PLOYMENT, AND DISCUSSES SIGNIFICANCE OF TREATMENT OF MAO'S
REMAINS. END SUMMARY.

2. QUOTE OF EVENING WAS DELIVERED BY ONE PANELISTS WHO
PREFACED A READING OF HIS POETRY BY PARAPHRASING A
RUSSIAN PROVERB INTO THE FOLLOWING CONTEMPORARY VERSION:
"EVERYTNING'S OK, THANKS TO DETENTE." (VSE V PORYADKE,
SPACIBO RAZRYADKE.)

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 15432 010153Z

3. IMPORTANCE OF DETENTE PERMEATED DISCUSSION AND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON U.S. TOPICS BY PANEL KEYNOTER, NOVOSTI POLITICAL COMMENTATOR (FAR EAST) KONRAD MIKHAILOVICH SMIRNOV, PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. SMIRNOV SAID BOTH PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES HAD MADE SOME "GESTURES" WHICH REFLECTED ADVERSELY ON DETENTE, BUT STILL BOTH CANDIDATES SUPPORTED DETENTE AND THAT WAS WHAT INTERESTED SOVIET UNION RATHER THAN WHICH CANDIDATE WOULD WIN. "OUR LEADERSHIP STUDIES THE STATEMENTS OF THE CANDIDATES AND SO FORTH AND ALSO HARRIMAN SPOKE WITH THEM", SAID SMIRNOV.

4. U.S. TOOK ITS LUMPS FROM SMIRNOV, HOWEVER, IN HIS COMMENTS ABOUT U.S. CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA, CIA ACTIVITY IN ALLENDE'S CHILE, U.S. "MANEUVERS" IN AFRICA AND U.S. "OBSTRUCTION" OF VIETNAM'S ENTRY INTO UN.

5. IN QUESTION FOR AUDIENCE SMIRNOV WAS ASKED TO DEFINE WORD "SUPERIORITY" (PREVOSKHODSTVO) IN TERMS OF ARMS BALANCE. HE WAS EXTREMELY EMPHATIC IN DENYING THAT SOVIET UNION WAS AFTER "SUPERIORITY". "ONE CANNOT SPEAK OF SUPERIORITY OF SOVIET UNION," HE SAID, "BUT OF SOVIET MIGHT (MOSHCH)". "WE ARE FOR BALANCE. WE ARE NOT FOR AN ARMS RACE." HE THEN DESCRIBED GROWING U.S. DEFENSE BUDGET. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT SOVIET POSSESSION OF CRUISE MISSILES, SMIRNOV DESCRIBED CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS "TERRIBLE WEAPON", SAID U.S. WAS INTERESTED IN "GREATER ADVANTAGE" OVER SOVIET UNION IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO APPLY PRESSURE TO IT. AS BREZHNEV HAD TOLD KISSINGER, SAID SMIRNOV, THE SOVIET UNION HAD CORRESPONDING CAPABILITY AND IF THE U.S. DEPLOYED CRUISE MISSILES, THE SOVIET UNION WOULD DO LIKEWISE. BUT, SMIRNOV EMPHASIZED, "WE ARE NOT PARTICIPATING IN ARMS RACE AND DO NOT WANT TO DO SO". A QUESTIONER ASKED IF IT WERE NOT A WEAKNESS IF THE SOVIET UNION DID NOT KNOW HOW THESE ROCKETS WORKED. SMIRNOV REPEATED BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT TO THE SECRETARY AND SAID SOVIET UNION HAD NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY BUT IT JUST DID NOT WANT TO TAKE THIS STEP.

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 15432 010153Z

6. IN HIS PREPARED REMARKS, SMIRNOV TOUCHED ON SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS SAYING THAT INFLUENTIAL CIRCLES IN JAPAN HAD GREATLY COMPLICATE SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS. MANY ANTI-SOVIET STATEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE AND THERE WAS A SPIRIT OF MILITARISM PRESENT. ALL OF THIS, INCLUDING THE PLANE INCIDENT, WAS TAKING PLACE AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF JAPANESE TERRITORIAL CLAIMS IN THE FAR EAST. "WE WILL SOLVE THIS PROBLEM AS WE CONSIDER

NECESSARY", HE SAID OMINOUSLY. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION. SMIRNOV DESCRIBED SOVIET PLANE FORCED DOWN IN JAPAN AS "A MILITARY PLANE OF LATEST TYPE".

7. SMIRNOV SAID CHINESE ARGUMENT OVER TREATMENT OF MAO'S REMAINS BORE NO RELATIONSHIP TO MAO'S WRITTEN WISHES BUT WAS CONNECTED WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION IN CHINA. SHANGHAI RADICALS HE SAID, WANTED TO PRESERVE MAO'S BODY TO KEEP ALIVE THE SPIRIT OF MAO. SMIRNOV ADDED THAT CHINA EXPECTED A POOR CROP THIS YEAR AND WAS EXPERIENCING ECONOMIC INSTABILITY.

8. SMIRNOV WAS ASKED TO DESCRIBE SOVIET COUNCIL OF DEFENSE. HE DISCUSSED LENIN'S ROLE IN FOUNDING SIMILAR INSTITUTION IMMEDIATELY AFTER REVOLUTION, MENTIONED BREZHNEV'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PRESENT COUNCIL AND SAID COUNCIL'S PURPOSE WAS TO COORDINATE ALL ASPECTS OF SOVIET DEFENSE INCLUDING ECONOMIC ASPECT.

9. ASKED ABOUT ITALIAN CP, SMIRNOV SAID CPI MAINTAINED "CERTAIN THESES" WITH WHICH CPSU DIFFERED. THEY HAVE FRIENDLY DISCUSSIONS WITH US, HE SAID, ADDING LACONICALLY THAT LIFE WILL SHOW WHO IS CORRECT.

10. SMIRNOV DELIVERED PREDICTABLE REMARKS ON MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS HE APOLOGIZED FOR THIS, SAYING HE KNEW MORE ABOUT THE FAR EAST.
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